

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

My name is Michael Durkin, founder and operator of a small 5-year old ISP in the San Francisco bay area called Raw Bandwidth. We serve over 1200 customers including more than 500 over DSL lines purchased from SBC/ASI.

Our customers choose our service over Pacific Bell Internet, SBC/ASI's sister ISP in this region, as well as over many other large ISPs, despite the higher prices we have to charge, because of our service quality and flexibility, something these customers simply cannot get at any price from the larger companies.

The FCC's proposal to take a largely laissez faire approach to regulation of DSL and Cable broadband access is horrible not only for my company, but for the millions of consumers that choose to get their Internet service from companies large and small other than their incumbent telephone and cable companies. Choices for consumers is the primary method to ensure there are reasonably priced, and high quality and flexible Internet service products available. Even though we use the same SBC/ASI DSL lines as Pacific Bell Internet, my company is able to maintain a reputation significantly better than PBI in this market. If we were able to purchase lines from SBC/ASI at a reasonable price and without fear of abusive marketing practices we currently experience on the part of SBC for the benefit of Pacific Bell Internet, we would be able to match their prices and continue to deliver our service quality. The FCC's proposed hands-off policies will do away with independents such as us, and is absolutely horrible for consumers.

Do not be fooled by the ILECs and cable companies. These companies will not share their facilities fairly based on market forces alone--they have no viable competition. They will shut us and other ISPs out, proceed to raise prices, and have no incentive to get their retail ISP service quality out of the gutter. They will not bring their services to the most rural markets, they will go strictly to where they can maximize revenue and ROI, and no further.

The FCC must see the error in its thinking and stop these policy changes dead in their tracks. The consumers of America, and the thousands of independent ISPs serving them, will never forgive you if you make this mistake.

Sincerely,  
Michael Durkin

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Michael Durkin  
614 Mountain View Ave  
Belmont, CA 94002